

basic unit.

--17. (Amended) The expansion unit according to claim 16,
aⁿ wherein said housing has an opening for allowing said
recording medium to be one of inserted into and taken out from
said accommodation section.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 remain in the application and have been
amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are
citizens and residents of Japan and this application
originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments to the specification are made
to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims
are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

--[The invention provides a] A tape library wherein [the accommodated] a number of cassette tapes [can be] are accommodated and adjusted [freely]. [Where one] One or more expansion units are connected to a basic unit[, when]. When a transport mechanism is [positioned] within the basic unit, a control circuit section [of the basic unit] controls the [position and operation of the] transport mechanism [with reference to] by referencing a position reference point of the basic unit, [but] and when the transport mechanism is within an expansion unit[, the control circuit section controls [the position and operation of the transport mechanism with reference to] referencing a position reference point of the expansion unit. The control circuit section and the [transparent] transport mechanism [of the basic unit] are interconnected by [a] an elongated-belt-like flat cable [like an elongated belt] which includes a plurality of conductors extending in parallel [to each other] and joined [together] with an insulating material, and when an expansion unit is coupled[, the cable [for interconnecting the transport mechanism and the control circuit section] need not be replaced[. This allows smooth], allowing coupling of an expansion unit and smooth transportation of a recording medium

in the expansion unit to a recording and/or playback section by the transport mechanism [of the basic unit].--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 have been amended as follows:

--1. (Amended) A tape library, comprising:

a basic unit; and

at least one[, two or more] expansion [units] unit coupled to said basic unit[;], wherein

said basic unit [including] includes: a basic unit housing[,]; recording [and/or] and playback means provided in said basic unit housing for one of recording [or] data to a recording medium and playing [back] data [onto or] from [a] said recording medium[,]; basic unit accommodation means provided in said basic unit housing for accommodating a plurality of recording media[,]; feeding means provided in said basic unit housing for feeding [a] said plurality of recording [medium] media between said basic unit accommodation means and said recording [and/or] and playback means[,]; and basic unit guide means provided in said basic unit housing for guiding [the] a movement of said feeding means; and

each of said expansion units [including a] includes an expansion unit housing[,]; expansion unit accommodation means provided in said expansion unit housing for accommodating [a] said plurality of recording media and expansion unit guide means provided in said expansion unit housing for guiding [the] said movement of said feeding means [of said basic unit]

between said expansion unit accommodation means [of the expansion unit] and said recording [and/or] and playback means [of said basic unit].

--2. (Amended) [A] The tape library according to claim 1, wherein said basic unit accommodation means and said expansion unit accommodation means [includes] include a rotatable member mounted for rotation around an axis substantially parallel to [the] a coupling direction of said basic unit and said expansion unit [or units], and a plurality of accommodation sections disposed on an outer periphery of said rotatable member for accommodating said plurality of recording media.

--3. (Amended) [A] The tape library according to claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of accommodation sections are disposed in a plurality of stages in [the] an axial direction of [the] said axis.

--4. (Amended) [A] The tape library according to claim 2, wherein said feeding means includes a movable table mounted for movement along said basic unit guide means and said expansion unit guide means in [the; an axial direction of [the] said axis[,]; a translate table mounted for [back and forth] movement with respect to one of said plurality of accommodation sections [or] and said recording [and/or] and playback means on said [movement] movable table[,]; and clamp means mounted on said translate table for releasably clamping

[a] one of said plurality of recording [medium] media.

--5. (Amended) [A] The tape library according to claim 4, wherein said basic unit guide means [of said basic unit] and said expansion unit guide means [of said expansion unit or units which] are coupled [to each other are coupled to each other so as to have] such that said coupled basic unit guide means and expansion unit guide means extend a length corresponding to [the] a length of said basic unit and said expansion unit [or units] when coupled to each other.

--6. (Amended) [A] The tape library according to claim 5, wherein said basic unit includes [an] at least one additional [one or more] recording [and/or] and playback means, and said feeding means includes a slide table for moving said translate table to a position opposing [to any of the] said recording [and/or] and playback means [of said basic unit] and said additional playback and recording means.

--7. (Amended) [A] The tape library according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of accommodation sections further includes a fence provided on [the] an outer side of said plurality of accommodation sections for preventing [leaping out] a removal of [a cassette tape from any] said plurality of recording media from said plurality of accommodation sections.

--8. (Amended) [A] The tape library according to claim 7,

wherein said expansion unit [or each or any of said expansion units] includes said recording [and/or] and playback means for one of recording [or] data to one of said plurality of recording media and playing [back] data [onto or] from [a] one of said plurality of recording [medium] media.

--9. (Amended) A basic unit, comprising:

a housing;

recording [and/or] and playback means provided in said housing for one of recording [or] data to a recording medium and playing [back] data [onto or] from [a] said recording medium;

accommodation means provided in said housing for accommodating [a] said recording medium;

feeding means provided in said housing for feeding [the] said recording medium between said accommodation means and said recording [and/or] and playback means; and

guide means provided in said housing for guiding [the] a movement of said feeding means[;], wherein

said accommodation means [including] includes a rotatable member mounted for rotation around an axis, and a plurality of accommodation sections disposed on an outer periphery of said rotatable member for accommodating said recording [media] medium; and

said housing [having] has an [inlet] opening [formed therein] in an opposing relationship to at least one of said plurality of accommodation sections for allowing [a] said

recording medium to be one of inserted into [or] and taken out from said one of said plurality of accommodation sections.

--10. (Amended) [A] The basic unit according to claim 9, further comprising: a control circuit section connected to said accommodation means, said recording [and/or] and playback means, and said feeding means for controlling said accommodation means, said recording [and/or] and playback means, and said feeding means, [and] wherein[, where] at least one [or more] expansion [units are] unit is connected to said basic unit[,]; when said feeding means is positioned within said basic unit[,], said control circuit section controls [the] a position and an operation of said feeding means with reference to a position reference point provided in said basic unit[, but]; and when said feeding means is within said expansion unit [or one of said expansion units,] said control circuit section controls [the] said position and said operation of said feeding means with reference to a position reference point provided in [the] said expansion unit.

--11. (Amended) [A] The basic unit according to claim 10, wherein [said control circuit section performs,] when a power supply to said basic unit is [made] available after at least one[, two or more] expansion [units are] unit is coupled to said basic unit[,], said control circuit section performs an initialization process of detecting and storing [the] said position reference point [of each] of said basic unit and said

position reference point of said expansion [units] unit.

--12. (Amended) [A] The basic unit according to claim 11, wherein said control circuit section communicates with a control circuit [or circuits] of said at least one[, two or more] expansion [units] unit coupled to said basic unit to [discriminate the] determine a number of [the] said expansion units coupled to said basic unit and stores [the discriminated] said determined number prior to [the] said detection of [the] said position reference point of [each of] said basic unit and said position reference point of said expansion unit [or units] in [the] said initialization process.

--13. (Amended) [A] The basic unit according to claim 10, further comprising a flat cable for interconnecting said control circuit section and said feeding means of said basic unit, wherein said flat cable [including] includes a plurality of conductors extending in parallel [to each other] and joined [together] with an insulating material [in such a manner as] to [be formed as] form an elongated belt[,]; said flat cable [being] is folded [over] at a substantially central portion in [the] a longitudinal direction [thereof,] of said flat cable; and said flat cable [being] is held at a portion in [the] proximity [of the] to said folded portion [thereof] by a [fold holding] fold-holding member such that [the] an angle [by the] of opposite end portions of said flat cable with respect to

[the] said folded portion is variable [in accordance with the] corresponding to a distance between said control circuit section and said feeding means of said basic unit.

--14. (Amended) [A] The basic unit according to claim 13, wherein said [fold holding] fold-holding member is formed by molding [of] a synthetic resin material, and a portion of said [fold holding] fold-holding member [which is] pressed by said flat cable when [the] said opposite end portions of said flat cable are opened has a cylindrical shape [of a cylindrical face] around an axis parallel to a principal plane of said flat cable and perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said flat cable.

--15. (Amended) [A] The basic unit according to claim 13, wherein said [fold holding] fold-holding member is formed from a flexible material.

--16. (Amended) An expansion unit [which can be] coupled to a basic unit [when to be used], said expansion unit comprising:

a housing [capable of] for accommodating recording [and/or] and playback means for one of recording [or] data to a recording medium and playing [back] data [onto or] from [a] said recording medium and accommodation means for accommodating [a] said recording medium[;], wherein

at least one of said recording [and/or] and playback